Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] In one embodiment a system for enabling queries to a database to be processed includes an application system for providing queries to a database system coupled to the application system via a network, a storage system coupled to each of the application system and the database system, and a return path selector coupled to the database system for selecting a return path over which to return results from queries made to the database system. The return path selector selects between the network connection and the shared storage system, usually based on the size of the result file to be transferred. The return path selector may choose a return path based on a measurement of throughput of the network connection. The storage system may be coupled to the application system and the database system using a switch or a storage network, and a database hub may be used to couple the application system and the database system.